

## SHORT STORIES

In Modern Note.

It is only tactful people who should be allowed to give personal reminiscences, but, unfortunately, they are not the only ones who do give them, says Tit-Bits.

"How well I remember your father, when I was a little girl!" lately said an elderly woman to a Newcastle clergyman. "He used to come often to our house to dinner. We were always delighted to see him, children and all."

"That is very pleasant to hear," said the clergyman with a smile; but the narrator remained gravely unconscious of his interruption.

"I remember what a hearty appetite he had," she continued blandly. "It was a real pleasure to see him eat. Why, when mother would see him coming along the road of a morning she'd send me running out to cook and say: 'Tell Mary to put on just twice as much of everything as she had planned, for here is Mr. Brown to dine with us!'"

The eminent son endeavored to preserve a proper expression of countenance at this interesting reminiscence, but his composure was sorely tried when, with great cordiality, the lady said:

"You are so much like your father: Won't you come home and dine with us after the service?"

Hope For Him Still.

Will Moody, son and successor at Northfield of the late Dwight L. Moody, tells the following story, apropos of recent theological events, about a young convert in the Salvation Army, who, earnest and zealous, was imbued with the idea that he must speak to every one on the subject of religion, says the New York Times. He was especially moved one day while traveling to address a somewhat austere individual, seated just in front of him. Touching him on the shoulder, he put the usual question: "My brother are you a Christian?"

"Sir," was the reply—and perhaps with a shade of impatience—"I'm a professor in a theological seminary."

But this only seems to call for renewed effort, and the young man was equal to it. "My dear brother," he said, "as you value your soul, don't let a thing like this stand between you and the Lord."

Couldn't Get Off.

Representative Sibley, of Pennsylvania, who was elected once on the Democratic ticket and once on the Republican ticket from the same district, was reproached at a political meeting for changing his politics, says the Washington Post.

"You people who stick to the tenet of 'sixteen to one,' said Sibley in reply, "remind me of a man I saw once in a lunatic asylum. He was capering through the hall astride a broom stick."

"Ah, ha," I said to him, thinking to be pleasant, "I see you are having a fine ride on your horse."

"This isn't a horse."

"Isn't a horse?" said I. "Then what is it?"

"It's a hobby," he replied. "If it was a horse I could get off."

Mistook Mr. Cleveland.

When Corbett, the pugilist, was in the height of his vogue, following the defeat of Sullivan, says the Philadelphia Times, he found himself housed in the Southern Hotel where Grover Cleveland, then president, was stopping en route. Corbett was traveling in his capacity as an actor, and was, of course, a person of interest in the eyes of many. President and pugilist met, and, about 7 o'clock in the evening, walked down the corridor together, each on his way to the evening's business, and each eyed appreciatively by respective groups of admirers. As they reached the outer corridor, two gamins were encountered. As they caught sight of the pugilist, their eyes sparkled; and one exclaimed:

"Dere he is, Tommy—dere's Jim!"

"I sees him—I see him!" testily replied Tommy; "but who's the fat broke wid him?"

"Dat!" And the first speaker looked with lofty contempt on Tommy as he vouchsafed this explanation: "Dat's Jim McVey, of course—Jim McVey, his sparin' pardner!"

The Limit.

This continued whittling down of prices reminds me of the merchant who had a big trade in Albata spoons, and decided that he ought to get them from the manufacturer at a better price," said a hardware salesman to the New York Tribune. "The manufacturer said that he could not make a reduction unless he put more lead

into the composition. 'All right, use more lead, then,' said the merchant.

"Before long he wanted a second reduction, and got the same answer from the manufacturer, who thereupon was instructed a second time to use more lead, as the merchant simply must have the spoons at a cheaper price. But still the merchant was not happy. He wanted another reduction. But the manufacturer wrote that he could not possibly submit to a further cut.

"Put in more lead," wrote the merchant.

"I can't," answered the manufacturer; "the last lot I sent you were all lead."

### PROGRAMME FORGOTTEN.

While "Uncle Joe" Cannon was discussing the naval appropriation bill in the house he referred to the war college, says the Washington Post.

"Now, I want to express the belief of a man who does not know much about the sea," he said, "that you may take men who have been at sea until they are forty-five years old, and then bring them together in a naval war college to study what they might, could would or should if a battle should come, and, in my opinion, modestly expressed, it does not amount to the snap of a finger.

"Why, I had a friend once who told me that he took a whole month in posturing and seeing which knee he should get down on to and trying to find out which hand of his sweetheart he should seize and how long he should duck his head when he popped the question.

"Well," said I 'how did you get along, Jim?' Said he:

"By jing, I forgot all about it, and I asked her if she would marry me and kiss me, and she said 'Yes.'"

### THE JOKE WILL TURN.

Chauncey M. Depew, the senator from New York, and Samuel L. Clemens, the humorist, were crossing the ocean on the same steamer, says the New York Herald. One evening after dinner, it was suggested that, following the time honored custom in the United States, the diners make speeches. Mr. Clemens made a characteristic address, such as might be expected from one whose writings are so well known under the nom de plume of Mark Twain. "It was understood," said Senator Depew, when called upon to speak, "that Mr. Clemens and I should write out our speeches for this occasion in advance and then exchange manuscripts. We have done so, but I regret to say that I have forgotten Mr. Clemens' speech."

The Senator then took his seat. His auditors roared in appreciation of the joke.

The next day an Englishman met Mr. Clemens on deck.

"I say," he remarked, "I have always heard that Senator Depew was remarkably clever, but what wretched drivell of his that was you were obliged to recite last night."

### CAVE SAGE A FRIGHT.

There was unwonted excitement in Russell Sage's office one day last week says the New York Press. A sometime reporter, now a stock broker, who has not yet begun to handle millions, had some business with Mr. Sage. When he was through he said:

Mr. Sage, let me handle a million dollars. I'd like to experience the sensation of holding so much money."

The veteran financier was in a compliant mood. He handed out a package of a thousand \$1,000 bills and enjoyed watching the young man fondle the paper representative of wealth.

"Thank you," at length remarked the young man, who is somewhat of a practical joker, as he rolled the bundle up in a newspaper and took up his hat.

"Hold up!" shrieked Mr. Sage, touching a bell button, and in an instant the office swarmed with Mr. Sage's employees.

"I have had the pleasure of handling a million," said the young man, laying down the package, and you have the anxiety of keeping it."

"Yes, yes," said Mr. Sage, still somewhat nervous, "but it is a pleasurable anxiety," he added.

### Mammy Mary's Message.

Current Literature says: In the course of her career Mammy Mary had met many distinguished persons, but her own importance as nurse for three generations in the family of General John B. Gordon, of Georgia, kept her from being overwhelmed by the honor.

When Mrs. Cleveland, during the second term of her husband's presidency, visited the Gordons at the governor's mansion in Atlanta, she expressed a desire to



Love is unequally yoked with sickness. Labor is lightened by love, but love cannot lighten pain or relieve it. Many a man looks on at his wife's suffering willing to do anything to aid her and able to do nothing.

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*C. H. Grove*

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noise and excitement of official life. When the coachman drew up he found her smoking her evening pipe. Not a step would she stir.

"She done say," said the unsuccessful envoy, on his return to town, "dat she don't want to see no presidents; she done see 'nough presidents."

Mrs. Cleveland laughed heartily when she heard this. Then she proposed to go to the mountain, since Mahomet refused to budge, and the next day she drove out to Southernland.

"I am surprised, Mammy Mary," said Mrs. Gordon, before introducing the distinguished guest, "that you sent such a message. You have never been impolite before."

"An dat nigger done tell what I say! Well, he never did have no sense an' Mannah! Co'se I 'spected he'd say I's, sorry I's ind'sposed!"

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